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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,931	01/24/2005	Alfred Losch	71657	6637

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EXAMINER

AMIRI, NAHID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,931	Applicant(s) LOSCH, ALFRED	
	Examiner Nahid Amiri	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In view of Applicant's Amendment received 26 October 2006, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings were received on 26 October 2006. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 7, "sheet" should be changed to --sheets--.

Claim 2, line 2, "clamping strips have" should be changed to --clamping strip has--.

Claim 3, line 2, "*clamping strips consist*" should be changed to --clamping strip consists--.

Claim 4, line 2, "clamping strips have metal cores" should be changed to --clamping strip has a metal core--.

Claim 5, line 2, "clamping strips" should be changed to --clamping strip--.

Claim 6, line 2, "edges" should be changed to --said edges--.

Claim 8, line 2, "clamping strips are" should be changed to --clamping strip is--; and "cover strips" should be change to --a cover strip--.

Claim 9, line 2, "clamping strips extend" should be changed to --clamping strip extends--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

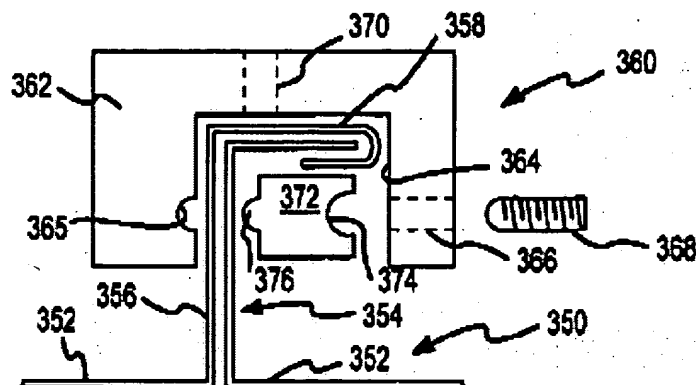
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 7,100,338 Haddock.

With respect to claims 1, 2, 4, and 5, Haddock discloses a connection (360, Fig. 9) of edges of formed sheets (352), wherein the edges of said sheets (352) have at least partially planar contact and can be detachably connected with one another, a first sheet (352) with an edge comprising a plurality of mounts arranged thereon; a second sheet (352) with an edge, said second sheet comprising a plurality of mounting flanges, said first and second sheets (352) being positioned such that each mounting flange is in flat contact with each mount; a clamping strip (362) providing a detachable connection of said sheets (352) at said mounts and mounting flanges; and a screw (368) connection for connecting said clamping strip (362) and said mounts and mounting flanges of said sheets (352); wherein said clamping strip (362) has at least partly a U-shaped design; wherein the clamping strip (362) has a metal core; and wherein the clamping strips (362) and said edges of said sheets (352) to be connected to one another are connected to one another by means of said screw connection (368).



With respect to claim 6, Haddock discloses a connection (Fig. 9) further comprising a joint sealing (constituted by a recess 365) is also connected together with said clamping strip (362) and said edges of said sheets (352) to be connected by means of a screw connection (368).

With respect to claims 7-9, Haddock discloses (Fig. 9) that a joint sealing (365) is integrated in said clamping strip (362); wherein the clamping strip is designed as a cover strip; and wherein the clamping strip (362) extends at least partially over the circumference of edges of the sheets (352).

With respect to claim 19, Haddock discloses a formed sheet edge connection (360, Fig. 9) comprising a first sheet (352) with an edge comprising mounts arrange thereon; a second sheet (352) with an edge, said second sheet (351) comprising flanges, the first sheet flange lying on top of said second sheet flange with said flanges being bent in the same direction; and a clamping strip (362) providing a detachable connection of said sheets at said flanges; and a connection means (368) for connecting the clamping strip (362) and the mounts and flanges of the sheets (352); and a seal (constituted by an insert 392) inserted into area of contact between the first sheet (352) and the second sheet (352).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Haddock.

With respect to claims 10, 11, 13, and 14, Haddock discloses a formed sheet edge connection (360, Fig. 9) comprising a first sheet (352) with an edge having an at least partially planar contact region flange; a second sheet (352) with an edge having an at least partially planar contact region flange, said first sheet flange lying on top of said second sheet flange with said flanges being bent in the same direction; and a clamping strip (362) providing a detachable connection of said sheets at said flanges; and one of a screw connection (368) and a clipping device (constituted by an 392) for connecting said clamping strip and said flanges of said sheets (352); wherein said clamping strip (362) has at least partly a U-shaped design; wherein the clamping strip (362) has a metal core; and wherein the clamping strips (362) receives an end of the clipping device (392) in a positive locking manner and the clipping device (392) has an opposite end positively locked on a side of the flanges to clamp the flanges together with the clamping strip (362). Haddock does not disclose that a sealing adhesive inserted into area of plane contact regions. Adhesive and its properties are well known per se. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to provide the planar contact regions of Haddock with a sealing adhesive in order to tighten the connection between the clamping strip and the sheets against any external pressure.

With respect to claims 3 and 12, Haddock discloses the claimed invention except that the clamping strip consists of a plastic. A plastic and its properties are well-known per se. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to form the clamping strip from plastic for such reasons as to provide a rust proof material which protect the sheets from rust and corrosion caused by moisture.

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With respect to claim 15, Haddock discloses a connection (Fig. 9) further comprising a joint sealing (constituted by a recess 365) is also connected together with said clamping strip (362) and said edges of said sheets (352) to be connected by means of a screw connection (368).

With respect to claims 16-18, Haddock discloses (Fig. 9) that a joint sealing (365) is integrated in said clamping strip (362); wherein the clamping strip is designed as a cover strip; and wherein the clamping strip (362) extends at least partially over the circumference of edges of the sheets (352).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action, e.g. claim 1, lines 5-8, the limitation of **“a first sheet with an edge comprising a plurality of mounts arranged thereon; a second sheet with an edge, said second sheet comprising a plurality of mounting flanges, said first and second sheet being positioned such that each mounting flange is in flat contact with each mount”**, was not claimed in original claimed invention. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Nahid Amiri
Examiner
Art Unit 3679
January 3 2007



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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